Fine on Reliance Infocomm by TDSAT

2466. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has fined a sum of Rs. 150 crores on Reliance Infocomm for breaching license conditions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TDSAT in its judgment dated 4th March, 2005 dismissed the petition No. 3 of 2005 filed by M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (RIL) against the orders of Department of Telecommunications regarding imposition of penalty of Rs.150 crores. The details of the case are as follows:

(i) A complaint was received from VSNL in respect of incorrect Calling Line Identity (CLI) for international calls on 2nd June, 2004. Meanwhile similar complaints were received from other sources also.

(ii) After detailed investigation it was concluded that RIL has tampered with CLI and had avoided the payment of Access Deficit Charges, thereby had violated the terms and conditions of various Licence Agreements.

(iii) Government after following the due process as per provisions of the Licence Agreements levied a penalty of Rs.150 crores on M/s RIL (Rs.50 crores each against the Unified Access Services Licences of Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata service areas).

(iv) M/s RIL appealed in the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), however, the appeal was dismissed. M/s RIL paid the penalty of Rs.150 crores in March, 2005.

(v) M/s RIL further filed a Civil Appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the judgement of the TDSAT and the matter is subjudice.

Effects of currency value on IT industry

†2467. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information technology industry has also been affected due to increase in the value of Indian currency Rupee as compared to the Dollar;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

†Originat notice of the question was received in Hindi.